BENGALURU, SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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BangaloreMirror
Sunday, January 19, 2025
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All you need to know about...

Family dynamics

Younger children favoured
While parents might tend to be partial towards daughters and agreeable children, younger siblings generally receive more favourable treatment, according to a review of studies analysing family dynamics.

More autonomy for older
However, older children are often allowed more autonomy with parents become less controlling as they grow, the review of 30 studies and 14 databases, involving nearly 19,500 participants, found. "For decades, researchers have known that differential treatment from parents can have lasting consequences for children," said the review's lead author Alexander Jensen, an associate professor at Brigham Young University, US. The review has been published in the journal Psychological Bulletin.

Favouritism
"This study helps us understand which children are more likely to be on the receiving end of favouritism, which can be both positive and negative," Jensen said. Parental favouritism, in which a parent is perceived to or may actually prefer one child to another, can express in multiple ways such as how they interact with the children, the money they spend on them or control they exert, according to the researchers.

Differential treatment
Differential treatment can have negative effects on the development, especially for the less favoured child, along with causing strained family relationships, they said. Both mothers and fathers were more likely to favour daughters. "Parents reported favouring daughters," the authors wrote. Further, children who were more conscientious (responsible) and agreeable also received preferential treatment, suggesting parents may find these children easier to manage and therefore, may respond more positively to them, the team said. **PTI**

POST-FESTIVE TREATS

2 types of pongal and 1 sweet bite as winter recedes

TILL LADOO

INGREDIENTS
- 1 cup sesame seeds (roasted)
- 1 cup grated jaggery
- 2-3 tablespoons ghee
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom powder
- Chopped nuts (almonds, cashews, raisins)

METHOD
- Roast sesame seeds until golden brown.
- Melt jaggery in a pan, stir constantly.
- Combine roasted sesame seeds, melted jaggery, and cardamom powder. Mix well.
- Add ghee if needed to bind.
- Shape into small balls.
- Add nuts.
- Cool and store in an airtight container.

—Tushar Kumar Das

SAMAI PONGAL

INGREDIENTS
- Little Millet - 1/2 cup
- Yellow Moong Dal - 1/2 cup
- Water - 4-5 cups
- Ghee/Oil - 2 tbsps
- Cumin seeds - 1 tsps
- Whole Black Pepper/Peppercorns - 1/2 tsp, slightly crushed
- Green chilies - 2-3
- Ginger grated - 1 tsp
- Curry leaves - 1 stalk
- Cashew nuts - 8-10
- Asafoetida - 2 pinch
- Coriander Leaves - handful, finely chopped
- Salt - To taste

METHOD
- Heat 1 tsp of ghee in a pressure cooker and add the washed dal. Sauté for 1-2 minutes until it turns light brown and aromatic. Add the millets and mix well.
- Pour in 4 cups of water, stir, and close the lid. Place the whistle weight and cook on medium flame for 4-5 whistles. Turn off the heat and let the pressure release naturally.
- Once the pressure is released, open the lid and mix the cooked mixture well until smooth.
- In a pan, heat the remaining ghee. Add jeera and crushed black pepper, and sauté for a few seconds.
- Toss in the green chilies, ginger, curry leaves, cashew nuts, and a pinch of asafoetida. Sauté for 30 seconds or until the cashews turn light golden brown.
- Add this tempering to the cooked Pongal. If the consistency is thick, add 1 cup of water to make it mushy and adjust to your liking. Boil for a minute.
- Your Millet Pongal is ready! Serve it hot with curd, raita, sambhar, or coconut chutney for a wholesome meal.

Recipe from 'The Tastes of India Podcast' on Audible

VEN PONGAL

INGREDIENTS
For Rice and Dal
- 1 cup raw rice (short-grain)
- 1/2 cup moong dal (yellow split lentils)
- 4 cups water
- 1 tablespoon ghee
- Salt to taste

For the Tempering
- 2 tablespoons ghee
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 teaspoon black peppercorns (crushed)
- 1-inch ginger, minced
- 1 green chili, slit (optional)
- 1 sprig curry leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon asafoetida (hing)

METHOD
- Wash and Soak: Wash the rice and moong dal thoroughly under running water. Soak them in water for about 30 minutes.
- Cook Rice and Dal: Drain the soaked rice and dal., combine the rice, dal, water, ghee, and salt. until the rice and dal are cooked through.
- Make the Tempering: Heat ghee in a pan. Add cumin seeds and let them splutter. Add crushed peppercorns, ginger, green chili, and curry leaves. Sauté for a few seconds until fragrant. Add asafoetida and stir briefly.
- Combine: Pour the tempering over the cooked rice and dal. Gently mix everything together.
- Serve: Serve hot with sambar, chutney

Tushar Kumar Das, Executive Sous Chef, Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks

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Most number of encroachments on lakes in state are in Bengaluru: 5,109 encroached upon, of which 2,067 are still not cleared out; number of lakes in city shrinking rapidly

THE GREAT LAKE LAND GRAB

Activist calls for enforcement of laws, monitoring, community engagement

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Despite their critical role as water sources in rural areas, many of the state's lakes remain plagued by encroachments, largely due to the government's failure to survey 12,285 out of the 41,000 lakes across the state. In rural regions. lacking major rivers or alternative water sources, these lakes are essential for agriculture and drinking water.

The highest levels of encroachment were identified in the Bengaluru and Mysuru divisions. In Bengaluru, 8,599 of the 14,967 lakes were surveyed, revealing encroachments on 5,109 lakes. While encroachments on 3,042 lakes have been removed, 2,067 lakes still need to be cleared.

Sunil D, a lake activist, said, "Lake encroachments pose a significant threat not only to our environment but also to the livelihoods of countless people who rely on these water bodies for agriculture,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

BM STANDS FOR CITY OF LAKES

Curious crawlies

Naturalists out with guidebook that offers close peek into lives of insects, spiders in city

PAGE 7

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION IN HEALTHCARE SUMMIT '25

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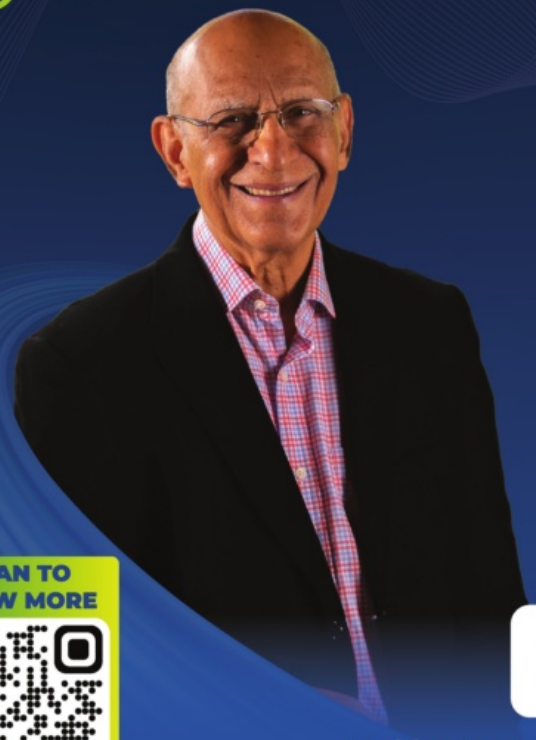

Keynote Address: Innovative Ideas & Solution, Opportunities In Healthcare
By Ashok Soota
Executive Chairman, Happiest Minds

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THINGS TO DO

01 Theatre act

Bali: The Sacrifice, written by Girish Karnad and directed by Arundhati Raja. This production of Girish Karnad's play takes you through one night of pathos, anger, and laughter, unravelling barriers of caste and religious beliefs. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: January 19, 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm**

02 Upcycle day

Atta Galatta's Let's Get Wasted initiative aims to spotlight sustainable living, waste management, and all sorts of upcycling initiatives. Join in for a day of mindful consumption, with textile collection drives, thrift stores, handmade products by local artists, panel discussions and screenings. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: January 19, 11 am onwards**

03 Vintage car rally

Advaith Hyundai presents a 'Vintage Car Rally' from Advaith Hyundai, Bellandur, to Chintamani. **Where: Advaith Hyundai, Bellandur to Chintamani When: January 19, flag off at 8:30 am**

04 Sunday brunch

Celebrate the first Sunday after the harvest festival with an exceptional culinary experience with Karen Anand, queen of fresh produce, and Culinary Director Anupam Gulati for a feast that redefines gourmet excellence. **Where: The Market, The Ritz-Carlton, Bengaluru When: January 19, 12:30 pm to 4 pm**

05 Speak out loud

Free 2-day workshop for individuals who struggle with stammering. Participants will receive personalised training on fluency-shaping strategies under the guidance of Dr Venkatgiri, Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University, and support from a team of expert speech pathologists from Samvaad Institute. **Where: Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing; When: January 25 and 26**

Clean & green: Bengaluru breathed easy this winter

City records 'good, satisfactory' air quality days last winter; experts say good rainfall in majority of taluks in B'luru Urban may have improved air quality

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Bengaluru experienced cold, cloudy, rainy weather in December, 2024 (file photo)

In the last four years, the number of 'good and satisfactory' air quality days during winter in Bengaluru has been steadily improving, according to air quality data by monitoring agencies. In December 2024, the majority of the days were classified as having 'good and satisfactory' air quality days. City railway station and Saneguruvanahalli recorded all 31 days of the month as 'good and satisfactory' air quality days; Hebbal recorded 26 such days, Jayanagar experienced 27 'good and satisfactory' air quality days, Mysore Road had 19, NIMHANS recorded 29, and Silk Board junction had 19 such days.

However, in December 2021, City railway station had only 17 'good and satisfactory' air quality days, Hebbal recorded 17 such days, Jayanagar had 19 days, Mysore Road had 12, NIMHANS had 22, and Silk Board Junction had 17 such days. Meanwhile, some of the stations also recorded 'poor' air quality days during the 2021 winter.

Role played by good rainfall in 2024

Experts say good air days in the city during December 2024 can be attributed to good rainfall in the majority of the taluks. Three out of the five taluks in Bengaluru Urban received significant excess rain, and two received excess rainfall. However, experts also underline the need for a denser network of air quality monitoring stations along with a hyper-local hotspot action plan.

> **"Rain brings down AQI values; Bengaluru received above-average rainfall in Dec 2024, which may have improved air quality**
> – City-based air quality expert

"Rain brings down the AQI values by washing down the most common air pollutant, or primary air pollutant, which is particulate matter (a mixture of solid and liquid particles suspended in the air). This in turn improves air quality, leading to lower AQI values. Bengaluru received above-average rainfall in December 2024, which may have improved the air quality," said a city-based air quality expert.

Air quality ratings & network in city

According to standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), an air quality index (AQI) of 0-50 is categorised as 'good,' AQI of 51-100 is considered 'satisfactory,' AQI of 101-200 is termed as 'moderate,' and AQI values ranging from 201-300 are considered 'poor.'

The AQI readings were captured by the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS). The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has 11 CAAQMs, covering residential, commercial, industrial, and silent zones in the city, and air quality is monitored round the clock for primary and secondary pollutants as well as meteorological parameters.

CAAQMS are currently installed at City Railway Station, Hebbal, Saneguruvanahalli, NIMHANS, Jayanagar, KAVIKA Mysore Road, Central Silk Board-HSR Layout, Jigani Industrial Area, RV College of Engineering, Kasturi Nagar RTO, and Peenya Industrial Area.

Aero show restrictions issued

As Bengaluru is gearing up for Aero India 2025, restrictions, from construction activities to the sale of non-veg food, are being put in place in north Bengaluru. A Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official said, "BBMP has issued directives to developers in the Yelahanka zone. Developers and builders operating within a 10-km radius of the Yelahanka Air Force Station have been instructed to lower the height of cranes being used in construction projects. Furthermore, all crane operations in the area are to be suspended during the airshow period, from February 1 to 14." V Rakesh Kumar, Joint Director of Urban Planning (North), BBMP, warned that violations of these rules will result in legal action under the BBMP Act, 2020, and Rule 91 of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Meanwhile, BBMP has issued orders to the general public, as well as proprietors of meat stalls, non-vegetarian hotels, and restaurants. "All meat, chicken, and fish shops within a 13-km radius of the airbase must remain closed. Additionally, the serving and sale of non-vegetarian dishes will be strictly prohibited in this area from January 23 to February 17. Any violation of these directives will result in legal action," an official added.— BMB

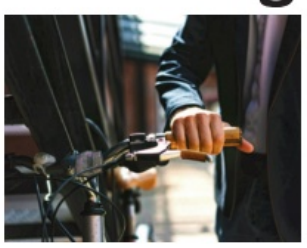
Airshow during Aero India 2023

Cycling for sustainable urban living

Around 154 cyclists, working in various corporate houses, participated in Pedaluru's 'The Altmo Challenge,' organised by the Council for Active Mobility (CFAM) to promote cycling as an active means of mobility. The event kicked off with a group cycle ride through 4.5 km of the Central Business District area, starting from the Institute of Agricultural Technologists, Queens Road, at 7 am. The event concluded with an engaging panel discussion and an awards ceremony to honour individuals and corporates championing sustainable commuting through cycling.

The event celebrated cycling as a mode of transportation, recreation, and climate action while also promoting road safety and sustainable urban living. A panel discussion was followed by the unveiling of the #KeepMeSafe cycling safety awareness poster, 'Safe Roads, Shared Respect,' by the dignitaries. Additional Commissioner for Transport Mallikarjuna C offered support to cycling groups by asking them to stay engaged with the road safety authority and offered to do what the department can to keep people safe on the roads. He was hopeful that we can bring down the accidents this year by coordinating with cycling interest groups.

Ewout de Wit, Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for South India, mentioned that 50 years ago the Netherlands was also car-centric at the time, but then people demanded safer streets and better quality of living, after which the government there pivoted to building safer and cyclist-centric infrastructure, and that's how they are where they are right now.



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Panel price surge derails K'taka's solar schemes

Shortage of made-in-India modules is slowing state's rooftop energy schemes; experts suggest using non-DCR options to meet demand and ensure progress

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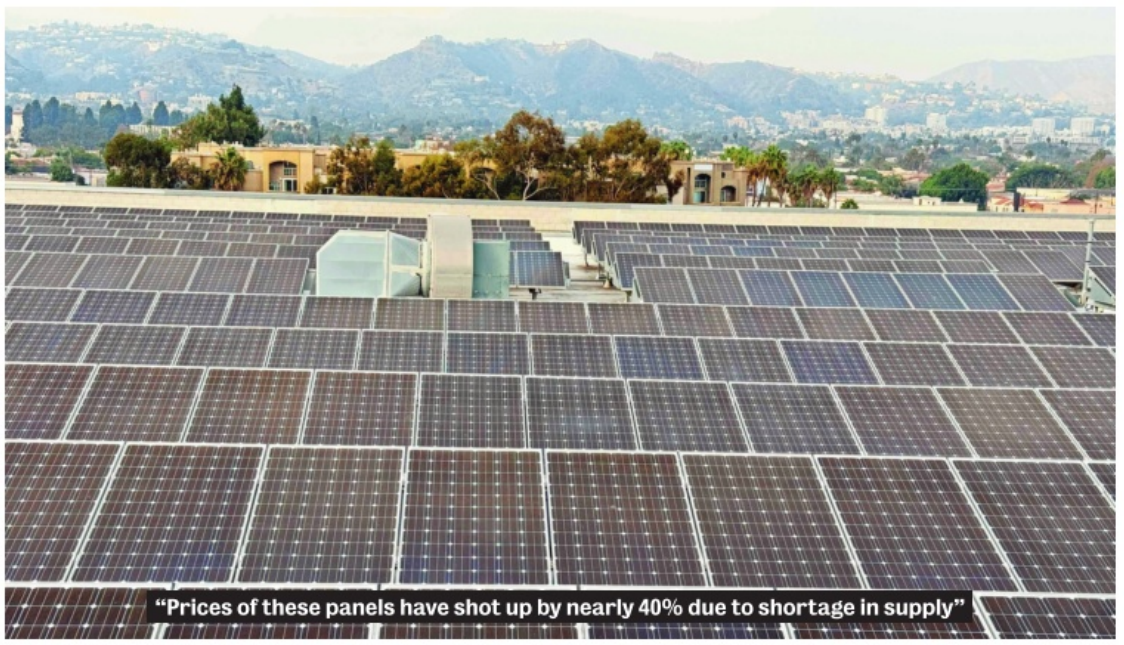

"Prices of these panels have shot up by nearly 40% due to shortage in supply"

Karnataka, like the rest of the country, is struggling with solar rooftop schemes that mandate the use of 'made-in-India' panels. Experts say a shortage in the supply of 'home-made' solar panels has been noticed over the past month or so, leading to a surge in prices, and impeding the progress of these schemes in the state.

"Prices of these panels have shot up by nearly 40% due to a shortage in supply. A couple of months ago, the price of made-in-India panels was around Rs 16 per watt, which has now increased to Rs 22 or Rs 23. This is due to the requirement of made-in-India panels (Domestic Content Requirement or DCR)," said a city-based expert.

The Government of India, through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has been encouraging domestic manufacturers of Solar PV cells and modules, by way of a policy of Domestic Content Requirement (DCR). Under the DCR rules, the use of domestically manufactured solar components in solar PV projects has been made mandatory.

Any violations of the norms or misuse of policy attract penalties.

"Unfortunately the manufacturing capacity of these components in Karnataka or across the country is low. The promised quantity of modules is not being supplied, leading to vendors not being able to install the panels. While the current annual requirement is around 30,000 MW, we are manufacturing panels capable of generating 10k to 15KMW. This gap in supply and demand has made the panels costly," says Ramesh Shivanna, president of the Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association (KRESMA).

PM Surya Ghar Rooftop solar scheme and Kusuma for solarisation of agricultural pumps, both schemes with DCR mandate, are impacted.

Experts say the government should keep these schemes open to non-domestic content requirements or non-DCR panels as well till it ensures a timely supply of DCR modules. "Roughly, non-DCR means that Solar PV cells can be imported from outside the country and panels can be manufactured in India. Non-DCR panels cost around ₹15 per watt, with prices previously at ₹14 per watt. Government subsidies for solar projects mandate DCR. The price difference between DCR and non-DCR panels is high. The government should keep these schemes open to non-DCR panels too," added Shivanna.

> **"Price difference between DCR and non-DCR panels is high. Govt should keep these shcemes open to non-DCR panels too**
> – Ramesh S, KRESMA

Experts say the slow progress due to costly panels defies the goal of making renewable energy or solar energy affordable and accessible. It will hamper India's aim of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel capacity by 2030.

From 1,452 lakes in 90s, by 2020, it had 210

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drinking water, and other essential needs. To effectively prevent these encroachments, we must adopt a multi-faceted approach that involves strict enforcement of existing laws, robust monitoring systems, and active community engagement."

He called for the strengthening of enforcement of land and water conservation laws, ensuring that violations are met with swift and severe consequences.

Bengaluru's lake ecosystem has seen a drastic decline over the decades. Originally spread across 6,278 acres, lakes in the city have suffered significant encroachments, with 907 acres already under illegal occupation. Of this, 865 acres are yet to be cleared. According to an IISc report, Bengaluru had 1,452 lakes in the 1990s. However, by December 2020, this number had reduced to just 210, with 66 lakes still undeveloped. Sources said that work is underway on 60 lakes, but the loss of canals connecting them is alarming. Between 2016 and 2017, canal lengths reduced from 113.24 km to 62.84 km in the Vrishabhavathi Valley, and from 226.29 km to 111.72 km overall. Additionally, two canals merging into Koramangala Valley and Bellandur Lake shrank from 338 metre in 2008 to just 136 metre by 2016. A committee has attributed this reduction to rampant construction activities.

Sunil suggested some ways to prevent encroachment. "Setting up dedicated task forces to monitor and protect our lakes, and leveraging technology like satellite imagery and drones for real-time surveillance is the need of the hour. Community involvement is equally crucial. Local residents should be educated and empowered to report encroachments, participate in lake conservation efforts, and collaborate with authorities to safeguard these vital resources. Creating awareness about the long-term impact of encroachments on the ecosystem and future water security is key to fostering a sense of shared responsibility. The government must prioritise the restoration and maintenance of lakes, treating them as indispensable assets rather than expendable resources," he said.

Elsewhere in the state

In Mysuru, 4,436 lakes were found to have encroachments, with 2,199 cleared and 2,237 still requiring action. In Belagavi, 1,190 lakes were identified with encroachments, with 518 yet to be cleared. In Kalaburagi, 168 out of 253 lakes have been cleared, leaving 85 lakes encroached.

According to the Minor Irrigation Department, the state is home to 40,998 lakes, managed by various departments, including Water Resources, Rural Development, and others. Additionally, district Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat (ZP) Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) are tasked with overseeing these lakes. Local communities are also involved through lake associations, and the government has established the Lake Conservation and Development Authority to further safeguard these vital resources. However, despite these efforts, over 25% of the state's lakes are encroached upon, and more than 26% have not been surveyed for encroachments.

11,000 lakes encroached

By the end of June 2024, encroachment surveys had been completed for 28,713 out of 40,998 lakes. The surveys revealed that 10,988 lakes had been encroached upon. Of these, encroachments on 6,081 lakes have been cleared, while 4,907 lakes remain encroached. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a meeting in July last year with district commissioners and ZP CEOs, had directed that all identified encroachments be cleared within the next three months. He also emphasised the need to conduct surveys on the remaining unsurveyed lakes and to take immediate action if encroachments are found.

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Street debris

Shivaji Nagar

Stone, mud, and garbage have been accumulating along Masjid Street in Shivaji Nagar for four months, causing inconvenience to residents and commuters while creating an eyesore.

Pothole alert

Wilson Garden

Motorists flag a growing pothole at BTS Main Road and 9th Cross, Wilson Garden, disrupting traffic and endangering vehicles.

Safety risk

Malleshwaram

Footpath encroachments at Malleswaram's 8th Cross are forcing pedestrians onto the road, creating safety hazards.

CRIME FILES

Honey trap: She lured randomly chosen victims over phone calls

Main accused in case was on run after blackmailing civil contractor; 4 of her associates already arrested

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The Byadarahalli police arrested a woman accused of honey-trapping and blackmailing a 52-year-old civil contractor in the city, on Saturday. The suspect, identified as Nayana, was apprehended after being on the run. Her four accomplices, Mohan, Jayaraj, Santhosh, and Ajay, were arrested earlier in connection with the case.

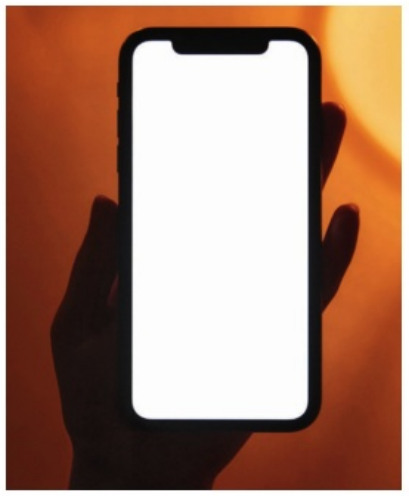
According to police, the gang targeted victims randomly, luring them through phone calls. Nayana contacted the contractor and invited him to meet her. Upon his arrival, she took him to a location where her accomplices, posing as police officers, barged in and claimed to catch him in a compromising position. They recorded videos and clicked photographs to blackmail the victim.

The gang extorted gold valuables worth 5 lakh and transferred 26,000 online from the contractor. To make their act convincing, they pretended to arrest Nayana and fled the scene.

Initially, the victim hesitated to file a complaint out of fear. However, he later realised the trap and approached the police. Acting on his complaint, police tracked down and arrested the gang members, including Nayana.

FIR against 40 for obstructing police duty

Over 40 individuals, including women, have been booked by Chamarajpet police



for allegedly obstructing police duties and staging a protest at the station premises, with Mehaboob Khan, president of the Tipu Nagar Masjid Committee, along with Shabbir, Masood Siddig and others.

The incident occurred during the investigation of a case under the Prevention of Destruction and Loss of Property Act. A gang of five youths had reportedly assaulted a 21-year-old autorickshaw driver and damaged his vehicle on Tuesday. Following a complaint by the victim, Nayamath Pasha, the police conducted a spot mahazar near a masjid in Tipu Nagar at 2.40 pm.

According to the FIR, the accused in the case, including Chandan, Saleem, Masood, and Shabbir, gathered a group of over 40 individuals at the Chamarajpet police station around 3 pm. The group protested against the police, questioning

Rest in the gang posed as cops and barged in on meetings between woman and her targets; they would threaten arrest and make their victims pay; contractor lost gold ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh

why Pasha had not been arrested and raising slogans demanding his detention. Despite efforts to pacify the crowd, the protesters allegedly pushed police personnel and obstructed them.

The police have registered a case under sections 132 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant) and 18g (unlawful assembly) of the BNS. No arrests have been made so far, and investigations are ongoing.

Foreign national arrested for drug peddling

The Soladevanahalli police have arrested a foreign national, on charges of drug peddling. Christopher, who resides in Chikkabanavar, was caught near Vinayaka Nagar based on a tip-off.

During the operation, the police seized 165 grams of MDMA crystals and 250 grams of hydro ganja, with the total haul valued at 45 lakh. Officials revealed that the accused used to sell the drugs to college students in and around the area.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Christopher sourced the contraband from another state and specifically targeted young individuals.

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SC to hear Atul Subhash's mother's plea on Monday

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea filed by the mother of Atul Subhash, a Bengaluru-based engineer who committed suicide in 2024 alleging harassment by wife, seeking his minor son's custody.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Saish Chandra Sharma is likely to hear the plea by Anju Devi who has filed a habeas corpus petition, seeking the custody of her four-year-old grandson.

On January 7, the top court had denied her the minor's custody saying she was "stranger to the child".

During the last hearing, the top court was informed by the counsel appearing for Subhash's estranged wife Nikita Singhania that the child was studying at a boarding school in Haryana.

Advocate Kumar Dushyant Singh, representing Devi, had sought the child's custody and alleged her estranged daughter-in-law had kept child's location under wraps.

He had argued a child below six years of age should not be sent to a boarding school.

–PTI

Sexual assault case: Prajwal allowed to watch clips involving victim

Prime accused in the Karnataka obscene video scandal -- former MP Prajwal Revanna who is the grandson of ex-Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, was allowed by a special court on Saturday to view alleged videos of sexual assaults involving the victim in a closed court session.

The Special Court for MLAs/MPs granted permission for Prajwal, his counsel, a technical team, and the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) to review the confidential videos retrieved from the personal cellphone of Prajwal's driver, who had worked closely with him.

Prajwal was brought to the court from the Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara following the order of the High Court in this regard.

Arun, Prajwal's counsel, submitted a request to the court to restrict

Prajwal was brought to the court from the Central Prison

the media from publishing news about the case. However, the court declined, stating it could not issue such an order.

The counsel further requested an adjournment for the confidential viewing of the data, citing the absence of technical experts. The court expressed displeasure, noting that such requests appeared to be delay tactics.

"I have no objection if the counsel files an application requesting a female judge," the court added.

Subsequently, Prajwal and the others viewed the confidential private data, which included the alleged sex videos retrieved from the driver's personal cellphone, in the closed court hall. The driver had worked for Prajwal.

Prajwal earlier had filed a petition with the High Court seeking the production of documents and electronic evidence collected by investigators from his driver's personal mobile phone.

"Everything here is obscene, and there is a limit to obscenity. The court cannot provide data about other women. You are trying to turn back the clock," stated the High Court bench.

–IANS

Cybercrime surge in K'taka: Cases rise, convictions stall

State registers 55,948 cases under IT Act from 2005 to Nov 2024, but only 14.51% have been solved; despite upgrading CEN police stations, detection rates remain low

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The number of cybercrime cases in Karnataka has been increasing year after year, but the solving of cases is still lower. Under the Information Technology Act of 2000, a total of 55,948 cases were registered in Karnataka between 2005 and November 2024. However, only 14.51% of these cases have been solved. To address the rising tide of cybercrimes, the government has established upgraded CEN (Cyber Economics and Narcotics) police stations in all districts and created the post of DGP(Director General of Police). Despite these measures, the expected improvement in detection rates has not materialised.

National cybercrime landscape

On a national level, over 7,000 complaints related to cybercrimes are registered daily. It is estimated that one cybercrime occurs every second in India, yet many victims hesitate to file complaints due to concerns about privacy and reputation.

Investigation challenges in Karnataka

Sources said that Cybercrime cases in Karnataka often have direct links to northern states creating logistical challenges for investigations. Karnataka's cybercrime police frequently face difficulties when travelling to northern states, as the journey involves one to two days by train and significant expenses. Moreover, cooperation from local authorities and residents is often lacking, and there are limited accommodations for investigators.

Only 16 out of 845 cases filed in K'taka have resulted in convictions

"Over 7,000 cybercrime complaints are filed daily in India, with one crime occuring every second. Many victims, however, hesitate to report due to privacy and reputation concerns

Despite these hurdles, Karnataka's police have successfully arrested suspects in several digital fraud cases. However, experts emphasise the need for the state government to allocate dedicated funds for investigation expenses.

Low conviction rates

Of the 845 cases filed against accused individuals from Karnataka and other states, only 16 convictions have been secured so far. Convictions were reported in districts such as Belagavi (1), Chikkaballapur (1), Davanagere (1), Kodagu (2), Mysuru (4), Shivamogga (1), Haveri (1), Chikkamagaluru (2), Dharwad (1), Vijayapura (1), and Vijayanagar (1). The remaining 829 cases are still awaiting resolution.

Supreme Court notice to Central Government

The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the Central Government regarding the increasing prevalence of cybercrimes, fraudulent calls and SMS scams across the country. A Bengaluru-based petitioner has urged the court to direct telecom service providers to curb spam calls and messages. The plea also sought the implementation of "CNAP Caller ID Services" which would display the caller's name along with their number to help prevent fraud. Despite efforts to combat cybercrimes, the growing complexity of cases, the use of VPNs by fraudsters, and the shortage of skilled personnel in the cybercrime division remain significant hurdles. Experts suggest creating a coordinated task force, increasing manpower, and ensuring cooperation from local authorities to address these challenges effectively.

Cybercrime statistics in Karnataka

Year 2022: Cases registered
12,879
Cases solved
3,232
Detection rate
25.10%

Year 2023: Cases registered
22,194
Cases solved
4,016
Detection rate
18.10%

Year 2024: Cases registered
20,875
Cases solved: 873
Detection rate: 4.18%

Overall total: Cases registered:
55,948
Cases solved:
8,121
Overall detection rate:
14.51%

New Cath Lab opens at Cura Hospitals

Cura Hospitals in Kammanahalli has partnered with Amma Cardiac Care to open a new Catheterisation Laboratory (Cath lab) today.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Avadootha Shri Vinay Guruji from Swarna Petika Pura, Chikkamagaluru, and Shri B Kenchappa Gowda, President of Vokkaligara Sanga.

Lab features advanced technology for accuracy

The new Cath Lab at Cura Hospitals aims to provide cardiac care with diagnostic and interventional services for heart conditions. It is equipped with modern technology for accurate and minimally invasive procedures, allowing for faster recovery and improved patient outcomes.

"We are happy to collaborate with Amma Cardiac Care for this initiative," said Dr Ameen Shams, Medical Director of Cura Hospitals. "Our goal is to improve cardiac care and make advanced treatments more accessible. This Cath Lab reflects our commitment to healthcare innovation."

Satellite scare in Bidar

An incident involving a satellite payload crash, was reported from Jalsangi village near Humnabad town in Bidar on Saturday.

No villagers were injured, even though the satellite payload crashed in a residential area in the middle of the village.

A satellite payload refers to the scientific instruments carried into the atmosphere by a balloon. According to sources, the satellite payload was launched by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). **–IANS**

K'taka Police Academy boosts cybersecurity training

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As cybercrime cases surge in an increasingly digitalised world, the Karnataka Police Academy (KPA), Mysuru, is gearing up to train its officers in cutting-edge cybersecurity techniques and cybercrime investigations.

This initiative comes at a crucial time when law enforcement agencies are grappling with complex cyber fraud cases, necessitating advanced skills to ensure swift and effective resolutions.

The comprehensive training program will target officers at all levels, from fresh recruits to senior officials, focusing on equipping them with the knowledge and tools to tackle modern cyber threats.

The officers will undergo practical sessions at the state-of-the-art Mysuru Cyber Security Hub Phygital Labs, managed by the Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC).

This facility features IoT and SCADA-based Cyberange simulators designed to provide real-world scenarios for hands-on learning. The training also includes leadership development under the National Security Database program, certifying senior officers as National Cyber Security Scholars, and a focus on cyber forensics, cyber laws, and ethical practices.

Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Training, emphasised the importance of enhancing the Karnataka Police's capabilities in cybercrime and cybersecurity. He stated, "Our capacity as of now is limited, and this will add to our existing capacity."

Training is crucial for addressing advanced cyber fraud cases

State-of-the-art technology

The training initiative will encompass both basic and post-promotional courses. Officers at various levels will receive instruction on cybercrime and cybersecurity, focusing on preventive measures and investigative techniques. The academy aims to equip officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to secure networks and effectively combat cyber threats.

The collaboration with ISAC is expected to enhance the academy's capacity by providing access to state-of-the-art technology, equipment, and tools available at their Mysore campus. This partnership will enable officers to gain hands-on experience and stay updated with the latest advancements in the field.

By integrating resources and expertise, the academy aims to strengthen the police force's ability to prevent and investigate cybercrimes, thereby enhancing their overall effectiveness in maintaining public safety.

Entered MOA

To formalise this initiative, the KPA has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with ISAC, a leading organisation in cybersecurity capacity building. The MOA was signed in Mysuru on January 15, establishing a strategic collaboration to enhance the digital policing capabilities of the Karnataka Police.

Expect collaboration with Infosys

The training academy is also set to collaborate with Infosys, which will add to the academy's expertise and resources to provide specialised training for police officers.

The training program also extends support for the development of a cyber-forensic lab at KPA, providing officers with access to simulation-based learning tools. Additionally, the partnership will promote a culture of professional ethics through ISAC's Clean Exit platform.

With this initiative, the Karnataka Police Academy is set to receive modern policing by integrating emerging technologies and innovative training methods, ensuring the force remains one step ahead.

THE SUNDAY READ

Fantastic beings and where to find them

Naturalists offer a close look into the world of insects, spiders found in city

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In an effort to foster curiosity and understanding of the natural world, a group of naturalists in Bengaluru has authored a comprehensive guidebook titled A Beginner's Guide to Insects and Spiders in Bengaluru. Authored by Vena Kapoor, Priya Venkatesh, and Vaidya R, the book aims to introduce beginners to the fascinating diversity of insects and spiders found in the city's urban and semi-urban spaces.

The authors emphasise the importance of recognising and appreciating these six- and eight-legged creatures that coexist with us in our highly urbanised environment. "We hope this guide will help curious naturalists identify and learn more about the commonly found insects and spiders around us," they note.

Exploring habitats and niches

The book takes readers through the diverse habitats where insects and spiders can be found. These creatures inhabit leaves, crevices of plants, tree bark, branches, soil, fences, walls, ceilings, and more. The guide offers a glimpse into their daily lives, highlighting their ecological importance and unique behaviours.

Illustrated with vivid descriptions, the book features various groups of insects, including ants, termites, bees, wasps, grasshoppers, crickets, butterflies, dragonflies, cockroaches, and more. It also covers spiders, categorising them into web-building and hunting spiders. Venkatesh, said, " Insects and spiders form over 80% known species in our natural world. It's safe to say that insects and spiders, despite their ecological importance, receive far less attention than their abundance and impact warrant. Insects get some attention due to their sheer diversity and impact on humans (pollination, agriculture). Spiders are often overlooked or portrayed negatively."

Speaking about environmental advantages of having insects and spiders in our ecosystem, she said, "Insects and spiders are essential to our ecosystem. They play diverse roles, from pollination by bees and butterflies to natural pest control by spiders and predatory insects. Decomposers like ants and beetles recycle nutrients, improving soil health, while soil-dwelling insects aerate the earth, promoting plant growth. Additionally, they serve as a vital food source for numerous species, sustaining biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance."

The ancient beings

Ants, belonging to the family Formicidae, are among the oldest creatures on Earth, possibly coexisting with dinosaurs. These social insects are easily recognisable and can be found in black, brown, and red hues.

The guide describes different ant species, such as the brown droptail ant, procession ant, big-headed ant, tropical fire ant, acrobat ant, Indian black ant, silky sugar ant, and arboreal bicoloured slender ant.

Nature's architects

Termites, often spotted in forests and undisturbed open areas, are known for their remarkable mounds and ability to recycle dead and decaying wood. The book explains how these insects play a vital role as decomposers in the ecosystem, converting plant fibers into new soil.

Busy bees

The guide also shines a spotlight on bees, the well-known pollinators. Readers will be fascinated to learn that a bee's wings can flap 12,000 to 15,000 times per minute to stay airborne while their bodies are covered in pollen. The book details various bee species, such as stingless bees, rock bees, Asian honey bees, blue-banded bees, leafcutter bees, and carpenter bees.

Grasshoppers, Katydids, and Crickets

These insects, part of the order Orthoptera, are commonly found in agricultural fields, grasslands, and shrubby areas. As herbivores and detritivores, they play a crucial role in feeding on decaying organic matter.

Froghoppers and Spittle Bugs

The book introduces froghoppers, also known as spittlebugs. These insects create a frothy white substance on plants to protect themselves from predators and weather. The adult froghoppers are agile jumpers, leaping up to 100 times their body length.

Dragonflies and damselflies

Members of the order Odonata, dragonflies and damselflies are ancient insects dating back 250 million years. Known for their delicate beauty, they are closely associated with water bodies, as their life cycle is linked to aquatic habitats.

Spiders: Builders and hunters

The guide divides spiders into two main categories: web-building spiders and hunting spiders.

Web-building spiders create intricate silk structures to catch prey. Examples include the giant wood spider, signature spider, nocturnal spotted spider, ornamental tree trunk spider, long-jawed spider, and various web weavers.

Hunting spiders, on the other hand, rely on stealth and camouflage. They actively stalk prey or patiently wait for the right moment to strike. This group includes crab spiders, lynx spiders, wolf spiders, cockroach huntsman spiders, house zebra jumping spiders, and ant-mimicking jumping spiders.

Call to observe and protect

The authors encourage readers to observe these creatures in their natural habitats and appreciate their roles in maintaining ecological balance. They stress the need to preserve urban biodiversity amidst rapid urbanisation and concretisation.

With its easy-to-understand language and detailed illustrations, the book promises to be an engaging resource for beginners and experts alike. The book not only enriches knowledge but also inspires a deeper connection with nature.

This guide is a reminder of the rich biodiversity thriving in Bengaluru, urging residents to look closer and marvel at the world of tiny creatures living alongside them.

"Insects and spiders are essential to our ecosystem. They play diverse roles, from pollination by bees and butterflies to natural pest control by spiders and predatory insects

–Priya Venkatesh, one of the authors of the guidebook

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

MOONLIT BLISS

The first full moon of the year is shining brightly amongst the clouds

The picture was clicked by reader **Vijita Asher**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

BBMP reaches 83% of its property tax target

Weekly tax collection stands at ₹10-13 crore at present; Mahadevapura Zone collects ₹1,169 crore, achieving 89% of its target

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has achieved 83 per cent of its property tax collection target for the 2024-25 fiscal year, with over two and a half months still remaining. Notably, the BBMP had set a goal of Rs 5,210 crore for property tax collection this fiscal year. The Palike has already collected Rs 4,370 crore.

What led to this speedy success?

A BBMP official said, "This significant milestone is attributed to various measures, including the successful implementation of the One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme, which concluded in late November and brought long-pending taxpayers under the tax net.

Currently, the weekly tax collection stands at Rs 10-13 crore, driven by revenue officers assigned specific weekly targets to ensure steady progress."

'Notices have been issued to property owners with pending dues to address tax defaults'

Addressing tax defaulters

BBMP officials said that to address tax defaults, notices have been issued to property owners with pending dues, and commercial buildings with significant arrears are being seized. BBMP aims to collect an additional Rs 500 crore by the end of March to meet its annual target.

"This year's collection marks a significant improvement compared to the same period last year, with Rs 900 crore more collected. By this time in 2023, BBMP had collected Rs 3,480 crore, while the current figure stands at Rs 4,370 crore," an official added.

Zone-wise tax collection data

Among the BBMP zones, Mahadevapura leads with Rs 1,169 crore collected, achieving 89.36 per cent of its target, followed by Yelahanka with Rs 422 crore at 94.95 per cent. Other zones, including West, South, Bommanahalli, RR Nagar, East, and Dasarahalli, have also shown consistent progress, with collection percentages ranging from 73.84 per cent to 84.87 per cent.

By this time in 2023, BBMP had only collected ₹3,480 crore, while current collection stands at ₹4,370 crore

DID YOU KNOW?

Pompeii, the ancient Roman city buried by ash and lava in 70 AD, has unearthed a new treasure—a private bathhouse built 2,000 years ago, decorated with sumptuous mosaics and equipped with a series of hot, warm and cold rooms in the manner of a spa. The baths were unearthed in the so -called Regio IX, a large central area of Pompeii park still unexplored, where major archaeological excavations are revealing new aspects of Pompeians' daily life. Recently, archeologists working in the same area found a bakery, a laundry shop, two villas and the bones of three people who died during the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which destroyed both the ancient Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

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Do you have to use specific ink colour to write cheques?

| Factly.in

Claim: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the guidelines for filling out cheques, prohibiting the use of black ink. Cheques must now be written exclusively in blue or green ink.

Fact: No, the RBI has not issued any such guidelines prohibiting the use of black ink for writing cheques. According to information available on the RBI website, the RBI has not prescribed any specific ink colours for writing cheques. The Government of India's official fact-checking unit, PIB Fact Check, also clarified that viral post if fake and that the RBI has not issued any such guidelines. Hence the claim made in the post is FALSE.

A post going viral on social media platforms, claims that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has changed the guidelines for filling out cheques. The post reads: "According to the new guidelines, cheques written in black ink will no longer be accepted from 01 January 2025, and cheques must be written in blue or green ink to be considered valid. The RBI has taken this step to prevent tampering and alteration of cheques." The post further alleges that this information was sourced from a report published in The Times of India on January 14, 2025. We conducted a relevant keyword search to verify the viral claim's veracity. However, we did not find any credible reports indicating that the RBI has prohibited the use of black ink for filling out cheques. If the RBI had indeed issued such guidelines, it would have garnered significant media attention and been widely reported by numerous media outlets.

During our search, we also found no report from The Times of India supporting the viral claim. We then visited The Times of India website and reviewed its 14 January 2025 news edition, as mentioned in the claim. However, no such report was found there either. We then visited the RBI website and reviewed its press releases, circulars, and publications. However, we did not find any information about any such guidelines.

#PIBFactCheck
RBI has NOT issued any rules prohibiting use of black ink on cheques
THE TIMES OF INDIA
DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025
NEW YEAR, NEW RULES: BLACK INK BANNED ON CHEQUES
FAKE
FAKE
FAKE
1:29 PM · Jan 17, 2025

Next, we conducted a keyword search on the RBI website, which led us to a report published on 31 October 2022 titled 'Frequently Asked Questions' on the Cheque Truncation System. In this report, it is mentioned that: "The RBI has not prescribed specific ink colours to be used for writing cheques." However, one should not use different coloured inks to fill out a cheque, as this may render the cheque invalid.

Responding to viral posts, on 17 January 2025, the Government of India's official fact-checking unit, PIB Fact Check, clarified on their official X handle that the RBI has not issued any new rules prohibiting the use of black ink on cheques. It also stated that the RBI has not prescribed specific ink colours for writing cheques. To sum it up, the RBI has not issued any guidelines specifying the ink colours to be used for filling out cheques.

The story was originally published by Factly.in (https://factly.in/rbi-has-not-issued-any-guidelines-specifying-the-ink-colour-to-be-used-in-writing-cheques/) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.

Ready for summer

Alia Bhatt reveals her favourite summer looks

Alia Bhatt fans wait with bated breaths for the Instagram updates of their beloved actress. Recently, the 'Raazi' star took to her Insta stories and dropped a glimpse of some of her favourite attires.

The montage shared by the diva featured her in a red slip dress with a flattering V-neckline. Her other look had Alia Bhatt in a white floral dress with open hair and minimal makeup. She also opted for a purple short cotton dress with a knot at the waist. The star's last look was a short printed orange dress paired with green heels.

In the meantime, the Kapoor clan hosted a grand event to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary filmmaker Raj Kapoor last December. Kartik Aaryan was also a part of the star-studded affair, along with others. A video of Kartik Aaryan and Alia Bhatt having a heart-to-heart went viral on social media. Recently, during a fan interaction in Mumbai, Kartik Aaryan was asked about his interaction with Alia Bhatt.

Replying to this, the 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' actor was quoted saying, "I was just talking to her normally. The lift wasn't working there... so I was telling her, 'You should at least have fixed the lift before doing the event.'". He added that reacting to his, Alia Bhatt said, "Acha, kab tak will your new film be released", asking about his film.

On the work front, Alia Bhatt will next be seen streamlining the much-anticipated spy drama "Alpha". Helmed by Shiv Rawail, the project will be a part of the Yash Raj spy universe. Aside from Alia Bhatt, Sharvari has also been roped in for a crucial role in the movie.

Furthermore, Alia Bhatt will also star in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's next "Love and War". The diva will be seen sharing the screen with Vicky Kaushal and Ranbir Kapoor in the highly-awaited drama. Alia Bhatt had earlier collaborated with Sanjay Leela Bhansali for the 2022 biopic "Gangubai Kathiawadi". —IANS

Sonam follows Charlize Theron, Venus Williams, Rosamund Pike

Actress Sonam Kapoor, has now joined a slew of Oscar winning actresses Charlize Theron, Rosamund Pike along with Wimbledon champion and Olympic gold medallist Venus Williams for luxury label Dior's first campaign of 2025 with Dior Capture.

With this campaign in 2025, Dior reinvents Capture, its pioneering line which has been fighting the signs of aging for nearly 40 years, based on the most advanced scientific research. The label brings together inspiring and charismatic women from around the world including Sonam Kapoor, Charlize Theron, Glenn Close, Laetitia Casta, Rosamund Pike, Venus Williams and Xin Liu as the confident, daring new faces of Dior Capture femininity.

Sonam features in a video and a series of pictures for the Dior Capture campaign.

She said, "Dior and I have shared a long-standing relationship and I've always been drawn to how the brand blends its incredible legacy with the pulse of today's world. It's about being authentic and also evolving with today's times and Dior Capture is just that. Through extensive pioneering research, Dior has brought to life this unique serum with Dior's floral science.

The actress added: "Just how Dior Capture expresses the strength of women around the world - irrespective of their backgrounds, stories and life choices - I hope through this campaign, people embrace the best version of themselves - and draw strength from within to get the confidence they need."

Sonam recently revealed the secret to look good "without even trying." Sonam took to her Instagram, where she dropped a string of images in hues such as black and navy blue. —IANS

Saif in recovery mode, has big films in pipeline

Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan, currently recuperating at a Mumbai hospital after suffering injuries in a knife attack at home, had recently wrapped up filming for his next movie "Jewel Thief - The Red Sun Chapter" and has few other projects lined up.

The 54-year-old actor suffered multiple stab wounds, including on his neck and near the spine, in a brutal attack at his house in Bandra in the early hours of Thursday.

Khan was most recently seen in Jr NTR's "Devara: Part 1", which was released in theatres across the country in September 2024.

The actor is expected to return for the film's follow-up as well. Though the makers are yet to officially announce the second part.

Khan's upcoming movie is "Jewel Thief - The Red Sun Chapter", a heist drama. The film, directed by Robbie Grewal, also stars Jaideep Ahlawat.

According to a source, the actor had completed filming for the movie, which is set to release in March 2025.

Besides "Jewel Thief", Khan will be seen in "Kartavya", an upcoming drama from filmmaker Pulkit of "Bhakshak" fame.

"The film with Saif is ready, we are dealing with the release. The producers are the best to comment on the release date," the director told PTI.

In October 2024, veteran film producer Ramesh Taurani had announced that Khan will be returning for the fourth chapter of the "Race" franchise.

Taurani, the founder of production house Tips Films, said "Race 4" will see Khan leading an ensemble cast. The film will go on floors in September, he added.

Khan was also in negotiations for various other projects with filmmakers like Priyadarshan, and "Animal" director Sandeep Reddy Vanga for his next movie "Spirit". —PTI

This is a dream come true

Actor Vicky Kaushal describes his journey in cinema so far as nothing less than a dream come true and he feels gratitude for the opportunity to portray some of the most compelling characters of his career.

Kaushal on Friday evening attended CNN-News18's Indian Of The Year Awards, where he was felicitated with the Youth Icon Of 2024 honour.

During his speech, the actor shared how his parents have always taught him to be the best person.

"There was only one plan and the plan was to just be extremely honest to my work, to myself and to the people around. My parents have also said that if you are 7 out of 10 as an actor that is okay but try to be 10 out of 10 as a human. And that's what I attempt to be," he said.

"I feel blessed and this journey has been nothing short of a dream come true... Got to work with some of the most wonderful directors in the business. Got to play some of the most wonderful parts," he added. —PTI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Uttarahalli to Uttarakhand

The team of #Paru Parvathy has begun promotional activities. They introduced the fourth key character of the movie – a Isuzu V-Cross car. The movie features former Bigg Boss Kannada Season 9 contestant Deepika Das, Poonam Sarnaik, and Fawaz Ashraf. The movie is bankrolled by PB Premnath under the Eighteen Thirty Six Pictures banner.

The movie's team has made arrangements to travel across the state in the car as part of the promotional programme. "We have planned to cover all important cities, especially the North Karnataka region. The car is expected to travel 20,000 km across the state. We have invested Rs 20 lakh on the car and it travelled more than one lakh km during the shooting," said producer PB Premnath.

Rohit Keerthy makes debut as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. He has also written the script and screenplay. "We consider the car an important character in the movie. The car is driven by Srikanth, a YouTuber and blogger, across the state to promote the movie. The film is a travel adventure drama. We plan to release it on January 31," said the director.

Deepika Das said she would want the car as a gift. "I love this car. I am requesting producer Premnath to give it to me as a gift. The movie is a family watch. It will motivate women to travel alone or with close friends. Driving the car from Uttarahalli to Uttarakhand was a memorable experience for me and I will never forget it. I play a character called Payal in the movie," said Das.

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Virat Kohli, KL Rahul pull out their name from Ranji Trophy second round matches

Star India batters Virat Kohli and KL Rahul informed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) medical team that they are battling with niggles because of which they won't be able to participate for their domestic teams Delhi and Karnataka respectively in the second round of the ongoing Ranji Trophy 2024-25 season, reported ESPNcricinfo.

As per ESPNcricinfo, Kohli is suffering from a pain in his neck. Kohli informed the BCCI medical staff that he took an injection on January 8 but still, there is a pain in his neck because of which he had to miss Delhi's upcoming clash against Saurashtra in Rajkot.

The 36-year-old's last appearance in Ranji was back in November 2012 against Uttar Pradesh, in which he was dismissed for 14 and 42 runs in both innings by pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

In 155 first-class matches, Virat has scored 11,479 runs at an average of 48.23, with 37 centuries and 39 fifties in 258 innings, with the best score of 254*.

On the other hand, KL Rahul is dealing with elbow issues because of which he is set to miss Karnataka's next-round fixture against Punjab in Bengaluru. The right-handed wicket-keeper-batter made his last Ranji appearance in 2020 March for Karnataka against Bengal, scoring 26 and 0 during the semifinal, which his team lost.

BCCI on Thursday released new policies for Team India, making it "mandatory" to participate in domestic matches to remain "eligible" for selection in the national team and for the central contracts.

In the policy, BCCI stated that taking part in domestic cricket will remain connected to the cricket ecosystem. The statement added that any exceptions to taking part in domestic cricket will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances.

"Participation in Domestic Matches is mandatory for players to remain eligible for selection in the national team and for central contracts, as per BCCI guidelines. This policy ensures that players remain connected to the domestic cricket ecosystem, fostering talent development, maintaining match fitness, and strengthening the overall domestic structure.

It also inspires emerging players by providing them opportunities to compete alongside top cricketers, ensuring continuity in talent progression.

Any exceptions to this mandate will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances and will require formal notification and approval from the Chairman of the Selection Committee, ensuring fairness and transparency in the process," BCCI said in a statement.

In recent days, young stars Rishabh Pant (Delhi), Shubman Gill (Punjab) and even Yashasvi Jaiswal (Mumbai) along with experienced all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja (Saurashtra) are among the ones who have reportedly confirmed their participation in upcoming Ranji Trophy matches. **ANI**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Roukiya Khanum W/O Mohammed Muqeem # 9/1 K B Sandra Blr-32 have changed my name to Ruqayya Khatoon for all purposes.

I,PRAVEENKUMAR wali S/o Veerasangappa wali Dob 05-10-1993 Native Dist: Kalaburgi, residing at No.55 Venkateshwara nilaya, Doddabommasandra, B'luru-97. Shall henceforth be known as Praveenkumar wali as per Aadhar.

I, MOHAMMED HAMID, S/o Abdul Razak, R/at #234/1, Albert Victoria Road, Eidgah Maidan, Chamarajpet, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560018 here by declare that ABDUL RAZAK & ABDUL RAZAK HAFIZ both the names belongs my father only, vide affidavit dt: 18.01.2025 before notary A. Manjula, B.lore.

I, Ram Kalyan Talatam Satya S/o Satya Prasad Rao Talatam R/o Ph4, b-block, Guru Priya Kiran Apts, 20th Cross, Nyanappana Halli, Btm 4th Stage, RTO Office RR Layout, Bannerghatta Road, B'luru-560076 have changed my name to Satya Ram Kalyan Talatam.

I, Raihan R/o No 36 8th B Main Nimhans Layout BTM 1st Stage B'lore 560029 have changed my name to Raihan Nazeer

I, Nama Ramachandrashekar Yashas S/O N K Rama Chandra Shekar have changed my name to Yashas Nama Ramachandrashekar vide affidavit dated 17th Jan 2025 before notary L Shankarnarayana, Bengaluru.

I, RAMA, residing at No.43, Old Savar Lane, Seshadri puram, Bengaluru-560020 have changed my name to POTLURU RAMANAMMA,vide affidavit dt: 18.01.2025 before notary V. Anjanappa, Bangalore.

I, Manoj Patro S/O, Harish Chandra Patro R/o B2302 Lv Hiranandani Bannerghatta Road have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Patro for all purposes

I Deepak R, S/O Raju M S, residing at 409, LVS Lavender, Rachenahalli Main Road, Thanisandra, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560077 have changed my name and hereafter be known as Deepak Bharadwaj vide Gazette CG-DL-W-02032024-252559

I Abhishek U S/o Uttamchand aged about 30 years residing at 43A, Salecha Elegance H B Samaj Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 have changed name as Samar Uttamchand Salecha on 10th January 2025 infront of Meer Hassan- Notary

I, Anitha Aravindan W/o, Balamurugan Sekar R/o #17, Laya, Lg Lake Dew Extension, 3rd Cross, Bileshivale, Bengaluru 77 have changed my name to Anitha Aravindekshan for all purposes.

I, SUSHRITH ARKAL, Residing at No. 161, 3rd Cross, RR LYT, Bannerghatta Road, Nyanappanahalli, Bangalore - 560076, Have changed my name to SUSHRITH SHRINIWAS ARKAL vide affidavit dated 18/01/2025 Sworn before Notary Aravind patil G.G. Bangalore

LOST & FOUND

PRABHU Basawanatappa Angadi .6/B,Treeshade cooperative society Jumabo Darshan colony Andheri East Mumbai Maharashtra 400069 do here by inform to the general public that on 12/01/2025. While I was waiting for an auto at HSR 2nd sector near coffee makers I have lost sale deed documents no 584/1995, Plot No 21 in VGP fruit garden 2.Lost Report No 1426150/2025.if anybody finds the above said documents or us possession please hand over the same to the above said address or to the nearest police station or contact 9550 38 6220

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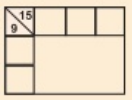
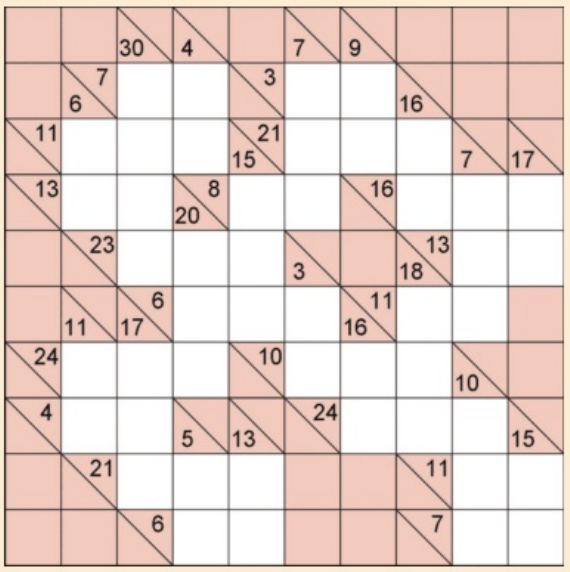
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

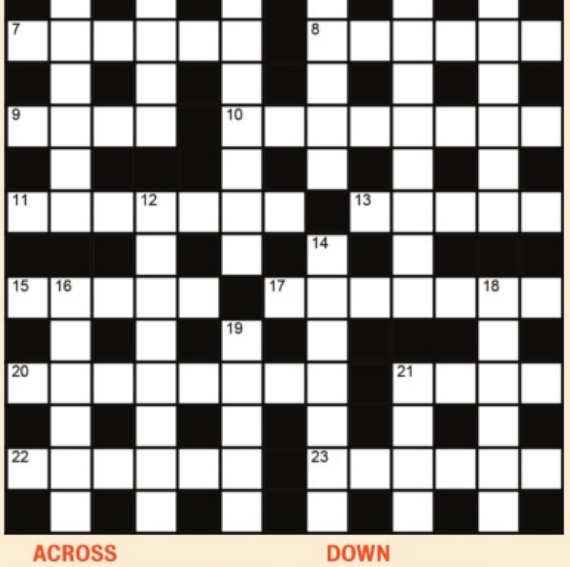


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Saunter, stray or stroll (6)
8 Faculties (6)
9 Univ. of Cal., Los Angeles (4)
10 Magician or illusionist (8)
11 Prison residents (7)
13 Things being pointed to? (5)
15 Gold mines 100 kms out of the city (5)
17 Put into a box (7)
20 Ms Chopra of Bollywood (8)
21 Job for a plumber (4)
22 Informal garment (1-5)
23 Sharp-eyed birds (6)

DOWN

1 A bird of prey (6)
2 Thought (4)
3 Coarse fern (7)
4 Utilizing (5)
5 Sitarist ___ Shankar (8)
6 Men of courage (6)
12 Investigation, research or examination (8)
14 Like leftovers (7)
16 A female monster (6)
18 Glossy coating (6)
19 Combine (5)
21 Trademark symbol (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS G

VLQRJKDUDYX DU KER QRJI RUURYPR AN LRWAPJVPI.

Linemaro

I saw the room suddenly going bright, then I saw you had come in

Mindchow

This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it

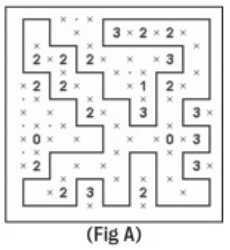
Joke of the day

You can't have everything ... where would you put it?

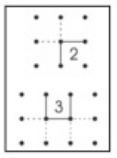
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



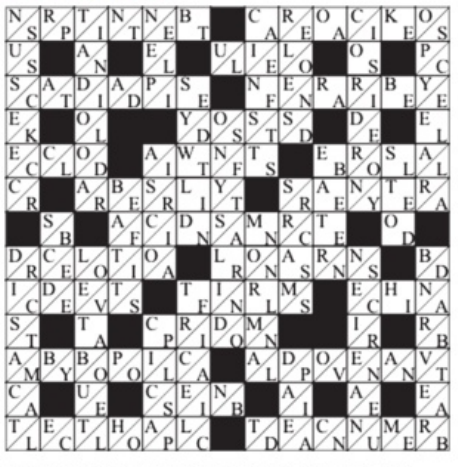
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9			G	

ACROSS

1 Cur he; 6 Ma our; 7 Road I; 8 Me den; 9 Dirge

DOWN

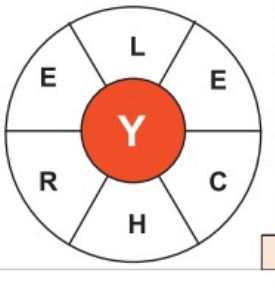
1 R rear; 2 I a mum; 3 Dec do; 4 Gnu hi; 5 Do ere

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

1	2
1	5
2	1
2	4
3	0
3	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2		9	6					5
3				8		2		
							8	7
		5	3				2	9
		3	2		8	5		
4	2				9	3		
5	1							
		4		7				1
6					1	8		3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 19

2 3 9 9

Medium = 15

9 6 6 2

Hard = 12

1 4 8 1

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

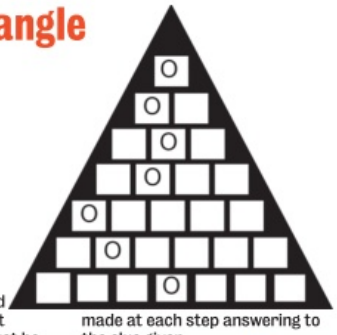
Differences: 1. Water spout is higher. 2. Water cup is added. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Hair is different. 5. Button is missing. 6. Tray is lower.

Riddler

Two scruffy dogs were walking down the street. The first dog turned to the other and said, "Do you realize that if one of your fleas jumped onto me we would have the same number of fleas?" The second replied, "Yes, but if one of your fleas jumped onto me I would have five times as many fleas as you." How many fleas are on each dog to begin with?

Alpha triangle

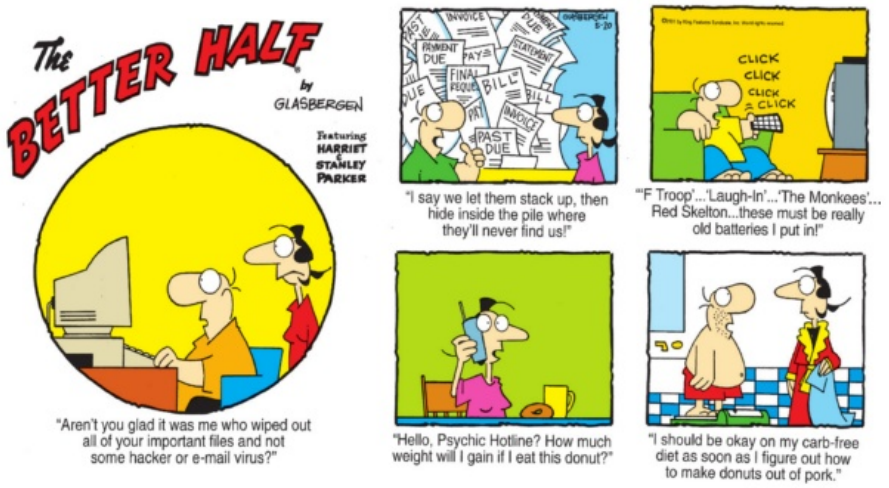
1 Atomic number 8
2 Not off
3 Agree silently
4 Meeting point
5 Possessed
6 Consumed
7 Was charitable



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"Aren't you glad it was me who wiped out all of your important files and not some hacker or e-mail virus?"
"I say we let them stack up, then hide inside the pile where they'll never find us!"
"'F Troop'...'Laugh-In'...'The Monkees'... Red Skelton...these must be really old batteries I put in!"
"Hello, Psychic Hotline? How much weight will I gain if I eat this donut?"
"I should be okay on my carb-free diet as soon as I figure out how to make donuts out of pork."

BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
PLEASE?
NOT NOW.
PLEASE?? NOT EVEN FOR TEN KISSES TIMES A HUNDRED?
I SAID NOT NOW.
MOM, IT'S LIKE A MILLION DEGREES HOTTER THAN YESTERDAY!
IS THAT A FACT?
ONE BILLION PERCENT!
I SEND YOU TO GET MONEY FOR POPSICLES, AND YOU GET US PRACTICE MATH.
WORST. HEATWAVE. EVER.

COMMANDER, WE'RE APPROACHING THE LAST COORDINATES SENT FROM GORDON'S SHIP.
FLASH!
OH, FLASH. YOU HAVE TO BE ALL RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU.
GASP NO...NO!

FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
FLASH AND THORNE HAVE UNWITTINGLY ENTERED INTO THE LAIR OF THE NIGHT CREATURES!
PREPARE TO DIE!
NOT JUST YET...
HIDING BEHIND YOUR COMRADE? YOU'RE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO YOUR RACE!
NOT HIDING...
...ARMING!
ZZASK!
THORNE! GRAB A BLASTER AND JOIN THE PARTY...
PROOM!
...WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
NEXT: ESCAPE IMPOSSIBLE!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may start your day with positivity and confidence. Success is likely in overcoming opponents and hidden challenges. Your work may receive appreciation from seniors, leading to new responsibilities or a promotion. Students, guided by the Moon's blessings, may find clarity in selecting the right

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Family matters may keep you occupied today. You might discover additional sources of income, bringing financial gains. Your interest in art, movies, or glamour may enhance your creativity. Lovebirds are likely to have a clear perspective on their relationships, and students will make strides toward their career goals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may face multiple options today, leading to confusion. Seeking advice from elders before making major decisions could be beneficial. Your past actions will guide you toward the right path in work and domestic life. Pay extra attention to your parent's health.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Business plans are likely to succeed with the support of subordinates. Short business trips may bring fruitful results in the near future. You may participate in social or family gatherings, which can expand your network and social connections.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is favourable for financial gains. Planning wisely and avoiding unnecessary expenses can significantly boost your savings. Lovebirds may enjoy participating in family functions together.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may deal with issues related to siblings and relatives but will receive support at work to manage tasks smoothly. Your network can help you achieve success in your endeavours. Collaborating with siblings and contacts might lead to starting a new venture, yielding profits with some effort.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You might feel low today, impacting your health and mood. Professional meetings may not yield the expected results, leading to a sense of wasted time. However, by evening, disappointments may turn into happiness. Avoid rash driving or adventurous activities for safety.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
A positive day awaits you. Business owners may secure new clients, contributing to growth and profits. Singles are likely to meet a compatible partner. In domestic life, avoid hiding things from your spouse to prevent misunderstandings. Job seekers might secure new roles, and promotions are possible for those employed.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Your strong network will help you implement business plans effectively. Wisdom and strategic thinking will bring financial gains. Domestic harmony is likely, with good understanding between you and your spouse. Those in industries like metal or booking agencies may see better results.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel spiritually inclined and plan to visit a religious place for peace of mind. Donations to charity or spiritual causes could bring you satisfaction. Your support, whether financial or moral, will positively impact those around you. You'll find joy and contentment in every moment.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A dull feeling may overshadow your day. Control your short temper and focus on staying aligned with your goals to avoid distractions. Refrain from investing in unworthy ventures. Lovebirds should avoid unnecessary arguments to maintain harmony.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today brings happiness and mental peace. You'll enjoy quality time with friends and family. Bonding with your spouse will strengthen, fostering domestic harmony. New business partnerships and innovations may emerge, promoting business growth.

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Tejsavi, Bengaluru

Liba Hunain, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt[3]{1/8} + \sqrt{1/4} + 3! = 7$
1/2 + 1/2 + 6
2/2 + 6
1 + 6

BULL'S EYE
celery, cheery, LECHERY, leery, lyre, rely

STRIKE OUT

S	P	I	N	E	T	C	R	A	C	K	S			
U	N	L	E	O	O	C								
C	A	D	D	I	E	N	E	A	R	B	Y			
K	O		D	O	T	S	D	L						
E	C	O	A	W	N	S	B	O	L	L				
R	R	E	S	I	T	S	A	N	T	A				
B	F	I	N	A	N	C	E	D						
B	E	L	T	A	R	O	A	R	S	B				
M	Y	O	P	I	A	A	D	V	E	N	T			
S	T	P	R	O	M	R	R							
I	D	E	S	F	I	R	M	C	H	A				
D	E	L	T	A	R	O	A	R	S	B				
K	O	L	A	R	E	N	C	A	S	E	D			
I	N	M	A	T	E	S	T	H	O	S	E			
O	K	G	S	E										
U	C	L	A	C	O	N	J	U	R	O	R			
L	E	A	I	O	R									
W	A	N	D	E	R	S	E	N	S	E	S			
F	I	B	U	A	H									

FAST FIVE

R	I	D	G	E
E	M	E	N	D
R	A	D	I	O
A	M	O	U	R
R	U	C	H	E

RIDDLER 2 and 4

QUOTE UNCODE
Advertising is the very essence of democracy.

QUICK
3. Starting at the top and moving down, reading each pair of boxes as a 2 digit number, add the separate digits to the 2 digit number as a whole, and put the result in the 2 boxes below. Continue this sequence as you move down.

MENSA PUZZLE

2	8	9	6	4	7	1	3	5
3	4	7	1	8	5	2	9	6
1	5	6	9	2	3	4	8	7
8	6	5	3	1	4	7	2	9
7	9	3	2	6	8	5	1	4
4	2	1	7	5	9	3	6	8
5	1	8	4	3	6	9	7	2
9	3	4	8	7	2	6	5	1
6	7	2	5	9	1	8	4	3

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, On, Nod, Node, Owned, Downed, Endowed.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 – 2 + 9 + 3 = 19
Medium
6 x 2 – 6 + 9 = 15
Hard
4 + 8 / 1 x 1 = 12

LOOP

KAKURO

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